

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. In a Thin Client Sizing Tool, a method for developing a Metafarm having an optimal number of Server Farms to provide recommended configurations meeting certain specified parameters, comprising the steps of:

5 (a) delivering input data on the total number of users to be serviced, the Availability goal to be achieved, the User-Weight utilization factors involved, and the preferred Server types to be used;

10 (b) sequencing a series of calculations to determine the number of Servers per Farm and the number of redundant Servers per Farm which match or exceed the said Availability goal;

15 (c) displaying a set of recommendations which show the minimum number of Server Farms which have the optimum redundancy factor and meet the values needed for the Availability goal.

2. The method of claim 2 wherein step (b) includes the steps of:

5 (b1) retrieving a Benchmark parameter which indicates the maximum number of users which can be serviced by a chosen Server type;

(b2) calculating a preliminary number of such chosen Servers which will constitute a Server Farm;

3. The method of claim 2 wherein step (b2) includes the steps of:

5 (b3) calculating the number of redundant Servers per Farm according to a preliminary set percentage parameter for the Redundancy Factor;

(b4) calculating the estimated Availability Level for the Server Farm chosen.

4. The method of claim 3 which includes the steps of:

5 (b5) if step (b4) Availability Level does not meet or exceed the Availability Level goal, then initiate a sequential loop by either incrementing or decrementing the

10 number of Server Farms to re-calculate the
 number of Servers per Farm and number of
 redundant Servers per Farm which meet or
 exceed the Availability Level goal

5. The method of claim 3 which includes the steps
of:

5 (b5) decrementing the Redundancy Factor
 until no acceptable recommendations are
 available;

 (b6) incrementing the Redundancy Factor in
 steps of 1% to find the optimum Redundancy
 Factor;

10 (b7) storing configuration recommendations
 in an array indicating output displays of
 the number of Servers correlated to the
 number of Users per Farm with the
 estimated Availability Level, estimated
15 yearly downtime, number of redundant
 Servers in the Metafarm and the total
 number of Servers in the Metafarm.

6. In a Thin Client Sizing tool, a method for optimizing the number of Server Farms to provide the most efficient recommended configurations which provide a desired Availability Level goal and Redundancy Factor, comprising the steps of:
- (a) inputting of data to indicate the number of users involved, the Availability goals, the user-weight factors, and preferred server types;
 - (b) calculating the number of Servers per Farm to be utilized;
 - (c) calculating the number of redundant Servers to be placed in each Server Farm;
 - (d) using a benchmark to check if the number of Servers per Farm from steps (b) and (c) exceed the benchmark values for the Servers involved;
 - (e) if step (d) indicates that the number of Servers per Farm does not exceed the benchmark value, then calculating the estimated Availability Level of the Server Farm;
 - (f) checking to see that the said calculated Availability Level meets or exceeds the Availability Level goal;

25 (g) if the Availability Level goal is not met
or exceeded, then incrementing the number of
Server Farms by "1";

 (h) checking to see if the number of Server
Farms is greater than 100 or not greater than
30 100;

 (i) if the number of Server Farms is less than
100, then requesting through steps (b), (c),
(d), (e), (f), (g), and (h) until step (h)
indicates that the number of Server Farms is
35 greater than 100;

 (j) checking to see that the number of output
recommendations is greater than "0";

 (k) decrementing the Redundancy Factor in
steps of 5% until no acceptable recommendations
40 are available;

 (l) incrementing the Redundancy Factor in
steps of 1% to develop a set of recommendations
which minimize the number of Server Farms while
still supporting the number of users required
45 and still meeting the Availability Level goal.

7. A Thin Client Sizing Tool system for configuring a Metafarm consisting of multiple Server Farms which provides the optimum size and Availability Level goals for a specified customer profile comprising:

5 (a) customer profile data means stored in a customer database;

10 (b) benchmark information means stored in a benchmark database indicating the number of Servers required to service a given number of users;

(c) program means for calculating the optimum number of Servers per Farm and the optimum number of redundant Servers per Farm;

15 (d) loop sequencing means for configuring different numbers of Servers per Farm with different values of the Redundancy Factor to display parameters which meet or exceed a prescribed Availability Level goal.